AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-6. (CANCELED)

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~An image file apparatus~~ A computer readable memory containing instruction ~~for reading out~~ to perform a method of recording an image file that has been recorded on a first loadable and removable recording medium ~~and recording said image file~~ on a second loadable and removable recording medium that contains one or more image files, the method comprising:

reading out, from the second loadable and recording medium, ~~a last~~ file-number of ~~file numbers for~~ the last recorded image file of the one or more images files ~~that have been recorded on the second loadable and removable recording medium from the second loadable and recording medium~~;

~~an incrementing device to~~ incrementing the ~~last~~ file-number read out ~~by said file number readout device~~ from the second loadable and recording medium; ~~and~~

reading out the image file that has been recorded on the first loadable and removeable recording medium;

~~an image file recording controller to change~~ generating a new file name for the read out image file by changing ~~a~~ file name of the image file that has

been read out of the first loadable and removable recording medium to the incremented file-number ~~generated by said incrementing device and to~~; and

recording the read out image file and the generated new file name on the second loadable and removable recording medium without checking for duplicate file names in the second loadable and removable recording medium~~,~~

~~wherein the file name includes numerical characters~~.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~apparatus~~ computer readable memory containing instruction to perform a method according to claim **7**, said method further comprising ~~a grouping device for~~ the step of grouping image files, which have been recorded on the second loadable and removable recording medium ~~by said image file recording controller~~, according to the types of images represented by the image files.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~apparatus~~ computer readable memory containing instruction to perform a method according to claim **8**, said method further comprising~~wherein said grouping device causes~~the step of recording a file name corresponding to each group ~~to be recorded~~ on the second loadable and removable recording medium.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image file method in an image file apparatus for ~~reading out~~ recording an image file that has been recorded on a

first loadable and removable recording medium ~~and recording said image file~~ on a second loadable and removable recording medium that contains one or more image files, comprising the steps of:

reading out, from the second loadable and recording medium, ~~a last~~ file-number of ~~file numbers for~~ the last recorded image file of the one or more image files ~~that have been recorded on the second loadable and removable recording medium from the second loadable and recording medium~~;

incrementing the read out ~~last~~ file-number from the second loadable and recording medium; ~~and~~

reading out the image file that has been recorded on the first loadable and removable recording medium;

~~changing~~ generating a new file name for the read out image file by changing ~~a~~ file name of the image file that has been read out of the first loadable and removable recording medium to the incremented file-number; and

recording the read out image file and the generated new file name on the second loadable and removable recording medium without checking for duplicate file names in the second loadable and removable recording medium~~,~~

~~wherein the file name includes numerical characters~~.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim **10**, further comprising the step of grouping image files which have been recorded

on the second loadable and removable recording medium according to the types of images represented by the image files.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim **11**, further comprising the step of recording a file name corresponding to each group on the second loadable and removable recording medium.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~apparatus~~ computer readable memory containing instruction to perform a method according to claim **7**, wherein the file names of the image files in the second loadable and removable recording medium are such that the numerical characters of the file names of the image files are consecutively numbered, wherein a numerical difference between two consecutive numbers is a predetermined amount for all consecutive numbers.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~apparatus~~ computer readable memory containing instruction to perform a method according to claim **13**, wherein the numerical characters of the file names of the image files are consecutively numbered when image files from a plurality of first loadable and removable recording mediums are read out and recorded on the second loadable and removable recording medium.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer readable memory containing instruction to perform a method ~~apparatus~~ according to claim **7**, wherein ~~the incrementing device~~the step of incrementing the read out last file-number includes always ~~increments~~incrementing the last file-number by a predetermined amount.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer readable memory containing instruction to perform a method ~~apparatus~~ according to claim **15**, wherein the predetermined amount is 1.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim **10**, wherein the file names of the image files in the second loadable and removable recording medium are such that the numerical characters of the file names of the image files are consecutively numbered, wherein a numerical difference between two consecutive numbers is a predetermined amount for all consecutive numbers.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim **17**, wherein the numerical characters of the file names of the image files are consecutively numbered when image files from a plurality of first loadable and removable recording mediums are read out and recorded on the second loadable and removable recording medium.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim **10**, wherein ~~in~~ the step of incrementing the read out last file-number includes always incrementing the last file-number by a predetermined amount.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim **19**, wherein the predetermined amount is 1.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer readable memory containing instruction to perform a method ~~apparatus~~ according to claim **7**, wherein the ~~file-number readout device is configured to read~~step of reading out ~~the~~ a last-file number of ~~the~~ file-numbers for image files that have been recorded on the second loadable and removable recording medium ~~from~~ comprises directly reading out the file names of the image files recorded on the second loadable and removable recording medium.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim **10**, wherein the step of reading out a last file-number of file-numbers for image files that have been recorded on the second loadable and removable recording medium comprises directly reading out the file names of the image files recorded on the second loadable and removable recording medium.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer readable memory containing instruction to perform a method ~~apparatus~~ according to claim **7**, wherein the numerical characters of the file name is unique to each image file stored in the second loadable and recording medium.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim **10**, wherein the numerical characters of the file name is unique to each image file stored in the second loadable and recording medium.

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer readable memory containing instruction to perform a method ~~apparatus~~ according to claim **13**, wherein the predetermined amount is 1.

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim **17**, wherein the predetermined amount is 1.